



E-Regulus



The Newsletter of the RASC Kingston Centre
2002 December Issue #10

Online Edition of Regulus!

This even-monthed issue of Regulus appears only online our web site in adobe acrobat .PDF format.

This summer has been so very very busy... a side effect when you only get 3 or 4 months of decent enough weather to enjoy outdoors. Not to mention all of the extra events that get piled on as well. Hopefully in the quiet times in front of your home fires you too will get a chance to rest, regroup and reflect on events... and then submit an article to Regulus! :)

Some feedback has come in and the trend looks like not too many people surf to the web site to read the online newsletter. Even those on the Kingston Centre Executive have confessed to this neglect! All I can say is that reading news online is still a far second to having paper in front of you, or in the bathroom, where you can be reminded of it, pick up where you left off and skim through.

What does this mean for the "Online Edition". Hmm.. That reference still doesn't work too well... let's try "*E-Regulus*". So what does this mean for the *E-Regulus*? Probably just a few things:

- 1) never put anything really really important into ONLY *E-Regulus*. If we do we must also put it into the paper version the following month.
- 2) do put in time sensitive information that would benefit members having the information a month earlier than otherwise.

Some Notes from the National Web site:

- A dedicated site search engine is now available at <http://www.rasc.ca/> It was a) free and b) free. There are actually two installations of them, one for just the public areas (for members of the public) and one located in the secure members-only section that searches the entire RASC web site.

Election Results:

The 2003 Executive Officers of the Kingston Centre RASC are:

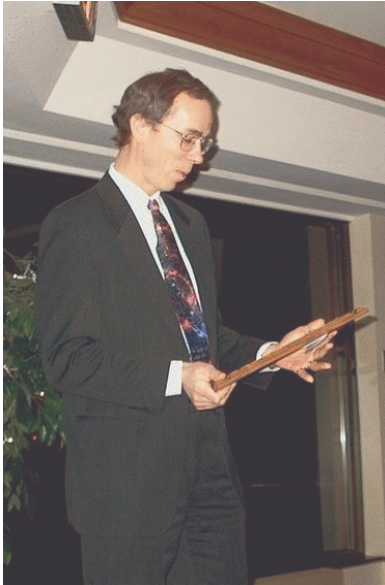
President: Hank Bartlett Vice-President: Doug Angle
Treasurer: John Hurley Secretary: Barb Holt
Editor: Kevin Kell Librarian: David Maguire
National Council Representative: Peggy Hurley

Annual Awards Dinner 2002

This years Awards Dinner had 34 folks show up for a great meal, a great talk and some wonderful awards. Sound too sappy? OK.. Here are some pictures!



The A Vibert Douglas Award



The A. Vibert Douglas Award is the centre's highest honour and is bestowed upon members who have made a significant contribution to the Kingston Centre or to Astronomy and its sister sciences.

This year's recipient has made several very important contributions to our centre ever since joining the centre several years ago.

From providing guidance, wisdom and elbow grease for several of our telescope making projects, to making major contributions to our education efforts, this person has been on the front lines of some of our most ambitious adventures.

This person has also played a role in centre politics, serving as President and also spending several years as the head of the Amateur Telescope Makers group. Most recently he has shepherded the construction of the Robert Venor Telescope project. From beginner to expert, we have all learned something from this knowledgeable, humble and generous man.

It gives me great pleasure to announce the winner of this year's A.V. Douglas Award, and greater pleasure still to claim him as a member of Kingston Centre. He is none other than Douglas Angle. (*No relation: Ed*)

Regulus Paper Distribution Report for November

Regulus Printed 200 copies

Mailed to Canadian Members: 112
 Mailed to US Members: 40
 Mailed to International Members: 4
 Mailed to other RASC centres: 25
 Mailed to Other US: 2
 Mailed to Other Canadian: 2
 Total: 185



Annual General Meeting & Elections

President's Report by Laura Gagne

This has been a very busy and productive year for the Kingston Centre as we continue in our mission to foster interest in astronomy and its related sciences. We have tried to keep a balance between reaching out to the public and keeping our own members excited about their hobby, and looking back over the year, it seems we have accomplished this. This is not the effort of any one person, least of all the president of the centre. Many tireless members have made significant contributions to our centre and I am indebted to all of them.



Our Vice President, Paul Winkler, managed to line up a very impressive group of speakers to inform and entertain us at our regular meetings. Tom Dean faithfully headed down to Murney park every month when the weather cooperated and showed the public the stars. Hank Bartlett, Vic Smida, Steve Hart, Kevin Kell and Barb Holt were among the regular attendees at these events and many other centre members joined them when they were able. We also had several "private" observing events held at the homes of some of our members. Most recently we had a social event (without telescopes, if you can imagine that) at the lovely new home of Kevin Kell and Kim Hay. Of course, some of us did go off in the wrong direction to see the harvest moon rising and managed to get ourselves lost in the woods. When we finally got back to the house, we saw the moonrise perfectly from the back deck...but we did have a nice walk! Jan Wiesnewski also held regular monthly meetings of a growing CCD group at his home. The CCD group has now begun to build their own CCD cameras, so even in the cloudy season, there will be action in this group. Jan and his wife are at this moment, as I write, expecting the birth of their second child. Keep an eye on Regulus for the announcement!

The centre boasted a large delegation at both the Montreal GA and at Starfest this summer. Pictures (incriminating and otherwise) are available on our website in case you want to see for yourself what a fun bunch of people you share a hobby with. We also had a great time at Mark Kaye's observatory in August, with former Queen's professor Larry Widrow as the mystery speaker. Susan will have more details in her report, I'm sure. In September, the annual "Fall n Stars" starparty was held once more at the Vanderwater Conservation Area together with the Belleville Astronomy Club. This year the weather was perfect and there was a spectacular aurora to top things off. It looks like this little event is

becoming a tremendous success, thanks to Kevin Kell and his helpers. Speaking of aurora, Kim Hay has set up an aurora hotline for members interested in receiving and making phonecalls when aurorae are spotted. So far we have had two such occasions. If this interests you, then check out the website for more information.

In bringing astronomy to the public, we had a wonderful display at Frontenac Mall this year for Astronomy Day. The chief organizer was Kim Hay, and the event was a tremendous success. People are beginning to look for us each year in local malls. Following the display, the new 24-inch telescope was officially named the "Robert Venor Telescope" after the man who generously bequeathed it to us. Since first light, the telescope has accompanied us to major events such as Starfest, Terry Dickinson's Stargaze and Fall n Stars to name a few. It is our pride and joy, and you can find out lots more by visiting our website where we have a photogallery of its birth and early life. The next major public event was the Sky is The Limit Festival in City Park. This has become a regular event for our center that allows us to take our own message to the public (ie. Look up and say 'wow'), as well as helping local charities to raise funds. We also made our presence felt at Charleston Lake for Terry Dickinson's public stargazing. Many members came out with their equipment and made the evening memorable for both young and old. Our "Venor" had many friends of like aperture as the telescopes get larger and larger every year. Hundreds of people climbed the ladder for a look, and a few came by the smaller telescopes as well.

In January our meetings moved to Stirling Hall, the physics building at Queen's University. It is a beautiful and newly renovated lecture theatre that comfortably seats hundreds of people, and it is close to the astronomy department. Since that time our regular attendance at meetings seems to have increased. Hopefully we will attract some university students to join our dynamic, energetic group. Certainly it will be a lot easier for the professors at Queen's to come in and give us talks. Another great benefit is the beautiful display of antique physics and chemistry equipment that graces the foyer of Stirling Hall. There are even a couple of telescopes in the case.

In the very near future we are hoping to find some land on which to build a permanent observatory. Ken Kingdon has been working tirelessly to find some place with a good sky, but so far we are still in need of a generous benefactor. We have one of the largest telescopes owned by a center of the RASC, but we are one of the only centers without an observatory. This is our future dream, but at least we made the Venor portable (well, sort of...). Until then, we continue in our mission to share our passion for astronomy with the world. Perhaps if everyone looked up and out across the vastness of space they might realize how very precious our little blue planet and its inhabitants really are. Then maybe there would be more hope and wonder in the world.

**Report from the Librarian
for the Annual General Meeting November 18 2002
by David Maguire**

1) Access:-

The centre's collection is at the home of the librarian.

So that people can see and borrow materials a book bag will be brought to each meeting at Stirling Hall. The selection will be changed monthly

The sign out sheet will still be used to keep track of the items borrowed.

The centre web site has a soon to be again updated, though not as yet complete, listing of the library holdings.

You can review the listing online and make requests of me by telephone or e-mail. These contacts are in the newsletter.

2) Additions:-

This year we have continued to receive newsletters from other centres.

These have the stories of developments in other centres and technical articles on various topics.

At the May meeting David Levy signed all of the books in the centre's library which he had authored or edited. He also contributed two more books.

Members are encouraged to look at the library resources and use them for reference and for help in choosing their own book purchases.

Submitted,

David Maguire

Friday, November 8, 2002.

Webmaster's Report by Kevin Kell

WebMaster's (Kevin Kell) Annual Report for 2002

We have a free Internet account with Internet Kingston, a local ISP in Kingston, as we are a local charitable organization. We are allowed 4 Mb of space at <http://members.kingston.net/rasc>. We are not allowed any other special services (a "secure" web page, or more space) without money changing hands. All we are required to do is have the little blurb at the bottom of the main web page ("webspace provided by Internet Kingston") and it should continue to run as long as the company is in business or changes it's policy. The worth of this service in today's market is approx \$25/month (A personal user account) or about \$300/year.

Because of these restrictions, and the availability of other web servers of one of our members, we have only the core web pages on Internet Kingston, with links to more on another system. This machine is 130.15.144.99 (hardware provided by Kevin Kell and internet access by the Department of Pathology) and hosts the secure web pages, which allows for userid/password access only to members. The hardware is an old Pentium2 - 500 MHz system which I have donated to the RASC-KC and if I can no longer provide the internet access, the computer will be transferred to the Centre to be located elsewhere. This is where we store complete copies of Regulus (with phone numbers and addresses), Observing Group directions to members homes, financial information from the Centre and National, and membership lists. It has a regular "insecure" section where the vast volume of images are located.

At present this excess web space is provided at no charge thanks to the Department of Pathology and Queen's University. They will however, continue only as long as I remain employed there. In anticipation of a move, CDROM's have been burned as backup copies of the web site and distributed to Kim Hay (webmistress) and Laura Gagne (Education Chair). Other CDROM backups will be made at least once a year.

National office has provided a forwarding page that we can use on all future advertising and publications:
<http://www.rasc.ca/kingston>

This has many advantages over publishing the actual address, ie if we ever have to move the site (which we have 3 times in the past 6 years), the title "members" (in <http://members.kingston.net/rasc/>) sometimes confuses members of the public, thinking that it might be a RASC-members-only web site, which it is not.

Web Summary

<http://members.kingston.net/rasc> approx 4 mb, with 117 html files and over 148 graphic images.

<http://130.15.144.99/rasc> approx 652 mb with 3499 images and 334 html files

**Minutes of the Regular meeting of the Kingston Centre of the RASC.
October 4, 2002**

Laura called the meeting to order at 19:45, and we began with a brief report from the exec and a run down of what their position is responsible for. Next month will be Centre elections and several spots will probably be open. As well as the standard exec positions which must be voted on at the General Membership meeting there are positions like ATM chair and Observing chair, Astro Day Coordinator, etc. The Observing chair position has become more than a one person job and probably needs to be split into 2 or 3 separate jobs. The main areas of responsibility are Public Observing events, Members only obs. Events, and equipment loan. If you have any interest in any activity please email the exec list. What followed this section was a very interesting series of presentations by members. Kevin started us off with a series of photos from Starfest, Fall'N'Stars, and views from his new back yard which seems nice and dark. Susan had a two minute comment to make on the Slate Islands and the possible 30 ft. shattercone that has been identified at this Northern Ontario impact site. It is suspected that if the structure is indeed a shattercone, it would be the largest known example in the world. After a break of frantic ticket selling (draws and the Annual Banquet) there was a great selection of prizes given away. The usual wine selection, thank you Hank, 50/50, and two really nice CCD photos donated by Jan.

Hank then showed a series of great Mexican vacation shots including some great pics of the pyramids he visited. Leo posted his Magnitude estimates for this seasons Sagittarius Nova 2002 #3 and gave us a quick rundown on what the Centre was doing 25 years ago to day. There was a card circulated to congratulate David Levy on 25 years in the Kingston Centre. This was followed by an assortment of slides including Leo's trip to the Hunonia Star Party. Laura gave us a very entertaining presentation of the Mythological characters Cassiopeia, Cetus, Andromeda, etc. which included some beautiful artwork. Judith gave us an update on the Queen's Observatory and things there are in very good shape due to a generous donation by a family of several generations of Queen's Grads. The observing deck has now been completed and public nights will begin as soon as they can find a new observatory coordinator. Jan closed the meeting with CCD images of some deep sky challenge items and a very interesting pair of movies of the movements of Asteroid 2000 NY40.

The meeting adjourned to Harvey's at 22:20.



Kingston Kosmic & Event Kalendar 2002

Prepared by Kim Hay

Month and Date	Event
December 4 (Wednesday)	Total Solar Eclipse in Africa and Australia New Moon 2:34 am. (EST)
December 10 (Tuesday)	Public Observing Session –Murney Tower 17:30-19:30 pm. (EST) King and Barrie Sts.(weather permitting)
December 11 (Wednesday)	1 st Quarter Moon 2:34 am.(EST)
December 13 (Friday)	KC Regular Meeting,19:30 pm (EST) Topic- TBA Stirling Hall . Theatre D. Queens University
December 14 (Saturday)	Geminid Meteor Peak 4:00 am (EST)
December 19 (Thursday)	Full Moon 14:10 pm (EST)
December 21 (Saturday)	Winter Solstice at 20:14 pm. (EST)
December 21 (Saturday)	CCD Imaging at Jan Wisniewski's 17:00 PM (EST)
December 22 (Sunday)	Ursid Meteor Peak 13:00 pm. (EST)
December 25 (Wednesday)	Christmas Day – Merry Christmas from the Kingston Centre
December 26 (Thursday)	3 rd Quarter Moon 19:31 pm (EST)
January 1, 2003 (Wednesday)	Happy New Year- Clear Skies from the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada- Kingston Centre
January 2 (Thursday)	New Moon 15:23 pm (EST)
January 3 (Friday)	Quadrantid Meteor Peak 19:00 pm (EST)
January 10 (Friday)	KC Regular Meeting,19:30 pm (EST) Topic- TBA Stirling Hall . Theatre D. Queens University
January 10 (Friday)	1 st Quarter Moon 8:15 am (EST)
January 14 (Tuesday)	Public Observing Session –Murney Tower 17:30-19:30 pm. (EST) King and Barrie Sts.(weather permitting)

For more detailed information, please refer to the RASC 2002/2003 Calendar, and the RASC 2002/2003 Observers Handbook. Available from your local promotions committee or from National Office, <http://www.rasc.ca>

RASC Kingston Centre Meetings

The Kingston Centre RASC meets once a month on the **2nd Friday of each month at 7:30 pm (19:30) in Stirling Hall** Theatre D on Queen's University Campus **unless noted otherwise**. We have adopted a policy of moving any meeting that is held on a holiday weekend.

2003 Officers and Executive Council

Elections are held annually at the Annual General Meeting of the Kingston Centre, usually in November.

The terms of office are all one year taking effect January 1st.

PO Box 1793, Kingston, Ontario K7L 5J6 Canada

Infoline & answering machine: 613-377-6029

Email: rascexec@cliff.path.queensu.ca Mail sent here gets forwarded to all members of the Kingston Centre Executive after being checked for spam and viruses.

We also have a Kingston Centre email chat list called "rascchat". Send your email address to Kevin Kell (kell@cliff.path.queensu.ca) to be added to the RASCCHAT list.

2002 Committee Chairs (non-voting, appointed)

ATM Group Chair:	Doug Angle
Astronomy Day Chair:	Kim Hay
Awards Chair:	Peggy Hurley
CCD Group Chair:	Jan Wisniewski
Education Group Chair:	Laura Gagne
FallNStars2002:	Kevin Kell
Light Pollution Abatement Chair:	Kim Hay
Membership Chair:	Kim Hay
Observing Chair:	Tom Dean
Publicity Chair:	Kim Hay
Sky Is The Limit Fest Chair:	Kevin Kell
Social Activities:	Susan Gagnon
Webmaster:	Kevin Kell
Youth Group:	vacant

The 2003 Committee Chair list will be appointed by the 2003 Executive Council.

Regulus is published 6 times per year on paper and 6 times per year in adobe acrobat format files. Both are available on our web site. Views and opinions expressed herein do not necessarily reflect the official position of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada or its officers and members. Subscriptions: Members of the Kingston Centre receive Regulus as a benefit of membership. Advertisements are free to members of the Centre. Commercial advertising is \$15/quarter, \$25/half page, \$50/ full page and should be in electronic format. Contributions are more than welcome. Submitted material will be edited for brevity or clarity. Copyright 2002 All rights reserved. Permission is granted to other publications of a similar nature to print material from Regulus provided that full credit is given to the author and to Regulus. June Print Run= Virtually none

The Newsletter of the Kingston Centre of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada

Newsletter Submission Info: The deadline is usually the 3rd Friday before regular meetings in odd numbered months. The preferred method is E-MAIL, then disk, lastly paper. E-mail: <kell@cliff.path.queensu.ca> Fax: 1-613-533-2907 (with cover page to Kevin Kell) Post: Box 2033 Kingston Ontario K7L5J8 Canada ascii or most major word processors (Corel WP8 for windows preferred) via E-mail or cdrom or 3.5" PC floppy disk

A note that all of the pictures seen in this issue are available on our web site. Go to our web site at <http://members.kingston.net/rasc> and click on Centre Information, then scroll down to the bottom and click on Picture Album. Have fun!